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A REIGN OF PROSPERITY?

Judging from the many flattering reports of things in general, the country appears to be enjoying a period of prosperity, the like of which has been unknown for some years. The foremost reason is the European war, which has occasioned an active export trade. Millions of dollars' worth of ammunition and war implements leave our shores daily, while grain and live stock hold a minor place.

Yet only a small percentage of the people share in the enormous profits of the munition manufacturers and the larger land owners. A great number of manufacturing and business interests have been practically put out of commission by the long protraction of the war and restriction in other lines of trade. The country as a whole is subject to grave inconveniences since many articles badly needed cannot be imported. In drugs and dyes, for which we depended on Germany, we are badly pinched. Besides, our shipping interests have been hampered.

The laboring man still has to pay just as high price for his foodstuffs. As a matter of course, fewer persons are out of work than last year, but this is due chiefly to the fact that there is not so much immigration and that thousands of foreigners have returned to their respective countries. The present brief period of prosperity is neither distributed nor real, and the indications are that it will not be lasting.

The home merchant has to work for business nowadays. He can't wait for business to come to him, and succeed. Why? Because the mail-order houses are out working for the business that should go to the home merchant all the time. Did you notice the number of catalogues received at the Columbia postoffice from mail-order house recently?

HONESTY AS A POLICY

There is a popular notion abroad that taking something that doesn't belong to you—if it belongs to some large corporation, or institution, or the Government or any impersonal property owner—is a good joke or, at worst, is excusable, but that securing the possession of a friend's pocket-book by the same methods is a criminal offense and a moral outrage.

But when you look into the matter, what is the difference between "beating" a railroad out of fare and short-changing a customer? Why steal a towel from a hotel but object to having your roommate taking it home with him while you are away?

The student who takes things that belong to the University has committed the same offense as when he "bited" another student's fountain pen, but he may boastfully tell of his theft from the institution and conceal the one from the individual.

Until moral restraint reaches the place where it condemns both kinds of thefts in the same light, there will be the "honest" people who won't hesitate to take advantage of the impersonal property holders.

ROMANTIC BLUFF

All the world loves a romance, but all the world has queer ideas of what constitutes romance. The hum-drum, every-day life has no romance for most persons; this life of monotony would hold only monotony, not tragedy, for the world. It cuts its own pattern, to this tune:

Humans are superhuman. They aspire only for the impossible and applauded. If they have virtues, they are very good; if they have vices, they are very bad.

As a matter of fact, most of romance is a bluff. The romanticist relies on the police court records for solace for the crimes he commits in the name of romance. An ordinary robbery, the butler's fall from grace, these are the

best to be had. At such times, the profession of romanticism is partly justified. If these things be true, why not others? And so on.

You do not agree with this? No, nor would the rest of the world.

Looking Backward

Fifty Years Ago.

"People returning from Mexico say that travelers have to take strong guards with them even when visiting the chief cities to keep from being ambushed."

Thirty Years Ago.

"A new clinic costing \$100,000 will be built at Vanderbilt College."

Twenty Years Ago.

"The Wabash agent says that he has taken in \$800,000 during the five years he has been in charge of the local station."

Ten Years Ago.

"Walnut Street will be the first Columbia street to be paved with vitrified brick."

Five Years Ago.

"Sixty-seven students will be graduated from the Columbia High School next Tuesday."

MISSOURIANS IN CONFERENCE

Young Men's Body Plans Advance in Home and Foreign Fields.
By United Press.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Regarding by mission leaders as the most important conference of the kind this country ever has known, the second Men's National Missionary Congress convened here today to plan a general advance in home and foreign fields.

President Woodrow Wilson attended the opening meeting. Delegates named by seventy-six preliminary conventions over the United States are present. The conference will end April 30.

The conference gathers without intention to plan a definite campaign of any kind. A review of the present mission situation by the world's greatest leaders and plans for arousing wider interest in the whole field are on the program.

Among the noted speakers on the program are: Dr. Shailer Matthews, just back from Japan; Sherwood Eddy, here from India; Dr. W. D. Mackenzie, of the Hartford Seminary Foundation; Robert E. Speer, John B. Mott, Amos P. Wilder, Silas McDee, Fletcher S. Brockman, J. Campbell White and Dr. E. M. Potrat.

TAKES THE BAN OFF "SPOONING"

Pittsburgh Police Ordered Not to Disturb Lovers in Parks.
By United Press.

PITTSBURGH, April 26.—Here is Police Superintendent Matthews' pronouncement concerning spooning lovers in Pittsburgh public parks.

"Any policeman who is so lacking in brains as to disturb any exercise of that kind will be placed on the books. Such an officer would not be humane. "Yes, sir; you can say for me that spooning goes in the parks. It is especially in the spring of the year that young hearts turn to love, and love leads to marriage and happy homes."

International League Season Opens.

By United Press.

NEW YORK, April 26.—Relieved of the Federal bugaboo, which for two years was a tremendous drag on its finances and threatened complete disaster, the International League will open its 1916 season today.

Buffalo plays at Richmond and Montreal at Baltimore. The other four teams will get under way tomorrow, when Toronto will play at Newark and Rochester at Providence. The schedule calls for 140 games, the season closing September 17.

Mrs. Dolly Simrall Improving.

Mrs. Dolly Simrall, who underwent an operation yesterday morning at Parker Memorial Hospital, is improving.

Pre-Lawyers to Give Smoker.

The pre-lawyers will give a smoker at 7:15 o'clock tonight in the Phi Delta Phi rooms in the Virginia Building.

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NOTES OF THE MOTHERS' CONGRESS

Kansas City is well represented at convention. Eighty-three delegates came on a special train over the Wabash yesterday afternoon. Among the delegates are Mrs. I. W. Hubbard, Mrs. W. A. Greiffe, Mrs. I. Claude McGee, Mrs. Hugh Ennis, Mrs. J. W. Fifield and daughter, Miss Margaret. Much work is being done by the Parent-Teacher Associations in Kansas City, and the interest is rapidly increasing. They report. After the last meeting tomorrow night, the Kansas City delegates will return home in a special train over the Wabash.

An automobile ride was given this afternoon between 4 and 5 o'clock for the visiting delegates.

The Moberly delegation to the congress is small but not lacking in enthusiasm. Mrs. G. O. Perry, president of the Parent-Teacher Association of the Central Ward of Moberly, and Mrs. R. A. Radford represent the seventy-five members of their organization. Plans are being made in Moberly to organize a home economics department in the public schools, and the association is making this its primary purpose. Mrs. Perry says the most interesting meeting they have had is the one at which Miss Ella V. Dobbs of the University talked to them.

Mrs. D. J. Krahl says that she talks so much about the work of the Parent-Teacher Association at Independence that people get tired of hearing her; but her colleague, Mrs. J. J. Latimer, says this statement is hardly true. The free night school is the great object of pride in Independence, its work being with the men and women who have never had the chance to attend school. The work in the school is done free by the principal, W. D. Miller; Miss Helen Ross, high school instructor in Latin and English, and a practical stenographer and a book-keeper.

Among the representatives here from Independence for the congress are Mrs. F. M. Smith, Mrs. D. J. Krahl, Mrs. J. Swift, Mrs. Wynne Kelley, Mrs. C. O. Leeka, Mrs. Robert

Miller, Mrs. M. Latimer, Mrs. C. G. Frisby, Mrs. A. L. Yingling and Miss Gladys Newton.

One of the few new delegates to the meeting is S. O. C. Williams of Lucas, who is teaching there. He was formerly a student in the College of Agriculture.

Mrs. G. W. Senn, Mrs. F. Flachman and Mrs. O. O. Evans are here from St. Louis to attend the congress.

Mrs. Charles Banks, Mrs. S. W. Arnold, Miss Laura Doolittle and Miss Clarice Evans are delegates from Kirksville to the Mothers' Congress. Miss Doolittle and Miss Evans are teachers in the Kirksville State Normal School.

Mrs. T. R. Gammage of Kansas City represents the Ashland School at the meeting. She has been active in work of mothers' clubs and the Parent-Teacher Association for several years. The Ashland School, according to Mrs. Gammage, is becoming more interested in the movement now at hand and has introduced several new schemes for furthering its interests.

Mrs. J. H. Barr of Kansas City is a delegate to the meeting. She represents the president of the Kansas

City organization, and is also a delegate from the Thatcher School. Mrs. Barr visited Columbia two years ago and says of the town: "I think you have a lovely city here, and I am especially interested in the University. Several students in the University are special friends of mine, and their mothers have been associated with me in my work."

Miss Helen Louise Barr, head of the English department of the Nevada High School, and Mrs. J. T. Myer, a teacher in the same school, are at-

tending the congress. They are the guests of Mrs. Berry Jacobs, 305 Christian College avenue.

Miss Clarice Evans, practice school supervisor of the Kirksville State Normal School, is here attending the congress.

No better building lots have ever been offered for sale than those of the J. L. Stephens homestead. Remember the date of sale, May 1. 263.

Excursion fares to Texas will be withdrawn on April 30th.

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For particulars, see or write H. L. WILSON, Ticket Agent Columbia, Mo.



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